

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 BIB-01 ACDA-05 SAM-01 EB-07

AID-05 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /088 W
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R 100739Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2245

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS ET YS LY

SUBJ: SPECIAL LIBYAN AND SOUTH YEMENI ENVOYS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. MEDIA HAVE REPORTED PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI BENTI MET INDIVIDUALLY DEC. 7 WITH SPECIAL LIBYAN AND PDRY ENVOYS. YUNIS AMRANI, LIBYAN AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN, AND AHMED ABDULLAH ABDULILLAH, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PDRY'S NATIONAL FRONT POLITICAL ORGANIZATION, DELIVERED MESSAGES FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE LEADERS. THIS IS SECOND LIBYAN MESSAGE TO PMAC IN LAST TWO MONTHS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. DISCUSSION WITH (MAINLY ARAB) DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES HERE LEADS US TO SURMISE THAT BOTH ENVOYS NOTED THEIR DISLIKE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAILE SELASSIE REGIME, EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR DIRECTION PMAC

IS GOING, AND URGED PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ERITREAN PROBLEM. GIVEN POOR RELATIONS BOTH NATIONS HAD WITH ANCIEN REGIME, BOTH MAY BE TRYING TO REVERSE STATUS WITH PMAC WHILE BURNISHING "PROGRESSIVE" IMAGE. AS IMPORTANT SUPPLIERS/CONDUITS TO ELF/PLF, BOTH LIBYA AND PDRY MUST BE CONCERNED WITH PMAC'S APPARENT DECISION TO PRESS MILITARY SOLUTION IN ERITREA. WE BELIEVE VISITS WERE MOST LIKELY "CARROT" (PROMISE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY FROM LIBYA) AND "STICK" (THREAT OF CONTINUED AID TO ERITREAN INSURGENTS AS WELL AS SOMALIA) APPROACH TO OBTAIN SETTLEMENT OF ERITREAN ISSUE FAVORABLE TO INSURGENTS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT YUNIS AMRANI (WHO REPORTEDLY US TRAINED - COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE) WAS RECEIVED FOR AN HOUR BY TEFERI BENTI, WHO WAS FLANKED FOR THE OCCASION BY PMAC AIR FORCE CAPTAIN (PRESUMABLY SISSAYE HABTE) AND ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER. LATTER REPEATEDLY ADVISED TEFERI IN WHISPERED CONFERENCES ON WHAT TO SAY. WE HEAR (AND BELIEVE) THAT TEFERI'S RESPONSES WERE KEPT IN BROAD GENERAL TERMS. ONLY MINSTATE ARAYA EKUBA EGZY SAID HAVE SUPPORTED TEFERI WHEN LATTER RECEIVED PDRY REP. ASKED BY (US PRESS) SOURCE - WHICH MUST BE FULLY PROTECTED - TO SUGGEST QUESTION WHICH SHOULD BE POSED BG TEFERI BENTI DURING PRESS CONFERENCE PROMISED FOR DEC. 10, YUNIS SAID TO ASK WHAT PMAC CHAIRMAN SEES AS SOLUTION TO ERITREAN PROBLEM AND WHETHER "DIRG" INTENDS TO ACHIEVE IT IN CONSULTATION WITH ETHIOPIA'S ARAB NEIGHBORS. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH US PRESS SOURCE YUNIS (A) ASKED ABOUT SOURCE'S ASSESSMENT OF US POLICY TOWARDS ETHIOPIA; (B) ASSETTED THAT AMAN'S DEATH WAS FAVORABLE TO LIBYA'S INTERESTS; (C) ALLEGED CHINA HAS DOUBLED ITS AID TO ETHIOPIA AND (D) PROVED VERY WELL INFORMED ON CURRENT ETHIOPIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING EVENTS WHICH RESULTED IN DEATH OF AMAN.

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